

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-23.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 2, 9 and 17.

Amended claims: 1, 8, and 16.

New claims: none .

Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules comprising:

a file locator configured to locate an executable image on a computer media;

a file-format recognizer configured to recognize the file format of the executable image from amongst a database of multiple file format definitions, wherein the database is extensible so that additional file format definitions may be added to the database of multiple file format definitions;

a memory-mapper configured to open the executable image from the computer media and read it into a computer memory;

an importer configured to find a list of executable image names to load;

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1 an exporter configured to build a representation of program modules that an
2 executable image exports;

3 a binder configured to link multiple executable images together, such
4 images being those of the list of executable image names.

5
6 **2. (CANCELED)**

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8 **3. (ORIGINAL)** A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the
9 importer is further configured to direct the loading of multiple executable images
10 of the list of executable image names to load

11
12 **4. (ORIGINAL)** A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the
13 file-format recognizer is further configured to select one or more of a group of
14 available pluggable sub-loaders is capable of loading the recognized file format of
15 the executable image.

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17 **5. (ORIGINAL)** A loader comprising a computer-readable
18 medium as recited in claim 1.

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1 6. **(ORIGINAL)** An operating system comprising a computer-
2 readable medium as recited in claim 1.

3
4 7. **(ORIGINAL)** A computer comprising a computer-readable
5 medium as recited in claim 1.

6
7 8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer-readable medium
8 having computer-executable modules comprising:

9 a searcher configured to search a computer media for an executable image
10 for loading;

11 a format recognizer configured to the format of the executable image;

12 a memory-mapper configured to load and map the executable image into
13 memory based upon the format of the executable image;

14 a sub-loader configured to examine a data structure of the executable image
15 to determine whether to load additional images;

16 a database of multiple executable-image formats which is the basis for
17 which the recognizer recognizes the format of executable image and for which the
18 memory-mapper varies how it loads and maps the executable image into memory,
19 wherein the database is extensible so that additional executable-image formats
20 may be recognized by the recognizer and loaded and mapped by the memory-
21 mapper.

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23 9. **(CANCELED)**
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1 10. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein one or
2 more modules the medium are configured to be replaced with a replacement
3 module without recompilation of one or more modules.

4
5 11. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the
6 memory-mapper is further configured to convert the executable image before
7 mapping it into the memory.

8
9 12. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the
10 memory-mapper is further configured to decrypt the executable image before
11 mapping it into the memory.

12
13 13. (ORIGINAL) A loader comprising a computer-readable
14 medium as recited in claim 8.

15
16 14. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a computer-
17 readable medium as recited in claim 8.

18
19 15. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising a computer-readable
20 medium as recited in claim 8.

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2 16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for facilitating loading
3 to one or more executable images a varying formats, the method comprising:

4 locating an executable image on a computer media;

5 investigating information related to the executable image, thereby
6 identifying the format of the executable image, wherein during the investigating,
7 an extensible database of executable-image formats is accessed;

8 based upon the identified format of the image, initiating a loader associated
9 with that identified format;

10 with that loader, loading the executable image into a computer memory.

11
12 17. (CANCELED)

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14 18. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein
15 headers of the image contains the information related to the executable image for
16 the investigating.

17
18 19. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-
19 executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method
20 as recited in claim 16.

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22 20. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising one or more computer-
23 readable media having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by
24 the computer, perform the method as recited in claim 16.
25

1 21. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having
2 modularized computer-executable modularized sets of instructions that, when
3 executed by the computer, load one or more executable images into a computer
4 memory, such an image having one or more formats defined by an extensible
5 database of executable-image formats.

6
7 22. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the
8 modularized sets of instructions are isolated with clean interfaces.

9
10 23. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a medium as
11 recited in claim 21.
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